

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) For use in a telecommunications system having a source base station and a destination base station where a specified mobile station establishes a connection with the source base station, a method comprising:

determining a dynamic offset threshold for starting at least a portion of a soft handover sequence for the specified mobile station at the destination base station, the dynamic offset threshold being a function of a probability that the specified mobile station will engage in soft handover;

initiating the at least a portion of the soft handover sequence when a signal strength from the destination base station as received at the specified mobile station has a predetermined relationship to the dynamic offset threshold.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising initiating another portion of the soft handover sequence when the signal strength from the destination base station as received at the specified mobile station has a predetermined relationship to a fixed offset threshold.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the another portion of the soft handover sequence is a remainder of the soft handover sequence.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the probability is a function of signal strength of the destination base station as received at the specified mobile station.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the probability is a function of signal strength of the destination base station as received at the specified mobile station and a function of signal strength of the source base station as received at the specified mobile station.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the probability is a statistical probability based on handover history of other mobile stations.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising initiating the at least a portion of the soft handover sequence when a signal strength from the destination base station as received at the specified mobile station is not less than the dynamic offset threshold, the dynamic offset threshold being a difference between the signal strength of the source base station as received at the specified mobile station and a dynamic offset.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the dynamic offset is a function of a fixed offset and the probability of the specified mobile station fulfilling the handover criteria.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining the dynamic offset threshold at a control node of the code division multiple access communication system.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the specified mobile station sending to the control node a measurement report of the signal strength of the destination base station as received at the specified mobile station.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications system comprising:
a source base station;
a destination base station;
a dynamic offset threshold determination unit which determines a dynamic offset threshold for starting at least a portion of a soft handover sequence for the specified mobile station at the destination base station, the dynamic offset threshold being a function of a probability that the specified mobile station will engage in soft handover;

~~The apparatus of claim 11,~~ wherein the dynamic offset threshold determination unit initiates the at least a portion of the soft handover sequence when a signal strength from the destination base station as received at the specified mobile station has a predetermined relationship to the dynamic offset threshold.

13. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications system comprising:
a source base station;
a destination base station;
a dynamic offset threshold determination unit which determines a dynamic offset threshold for starting at least a portion of a soft handover sequence for the specified mobile station at the destination base station, the dynamic offset threshold being a function of a probability that the specified mobile station will engage in soft handover;

~~The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising~~ a handover unit which initiates another portion of the soft handover sequence when the signal strength from the destination base station as received at the specified mobile station has a predetermined relationship to a fixed offset threshold.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the another portion of the soft handover sequence is a remainder of the soft handover sequence.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~11~~12, wherein the probability is a function of signal strength of the destination base station as received at the specified mobile station.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~11~~12, wherein the probability is a function of signal strength of the destination base station as received at the specified mobile station and a function of signal strength of the source base station as received at the specified mobile station.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~11~~12, wherein the probability is a statistical probability based on handover history of other mobile stations.

18. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications system comprising:
a source base station;
a destination base station;
a dynamic offset threshold determination unit which determines a dynamic offset threshold for starting at least a portion of a soft handover sequence for the specified mobile station at the destination base station, the dynamic offset threshold being a function of a probability that the specified mobile station will engage in soft handover;

~~The apparatus of claim 11,~~ wherein the dynamic offset threshold determination unit initiates the at least a portion of the soft handover sequence when a signal strength from the destination base station as received at the specified mobile station is not less than the dynamic offset threshold, the dynamic offset threshold being a difference between the signal strength of the source base station as received at the specified mobile station and a dynamic offset.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the dynamic offset is a function of a fixed offset and the probability of the specified mobile station fulfilling the handover criteria.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~11~~12, wherein the dynamic offset threshold determination unit is situated at a control node of the code division multiple access communication system.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein control node receives from the specified mobile station a measurement report of the signal strength of the destination base station as received at the specified mobile station.

PLEASE ADD NEW CLAIMS 22 - 31 AS FOLLOWS:

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the probability is a function of signal strength of the destination base station as received at the specified mobile station.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the probability is a function of signal strength of the destination base station as received at the specified mobile station and a function of signal strength of the source base station as received at the specified mobile station.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the probability is a statistical probability based on handover history of other mobile stations.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the dynamic offset threshold determination unit is situated at a control node of the code division multiple access communication system.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein control node receives from the specified mobile station a measurement report of the signal strength of the destination base station as received at the specified mobile station.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the probability is a function of signal strength of the destination base station as received at the specified mobile station.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the probability is a function of signal strength of the destination base station as received at the specified mobile station and a function of signal strength of the source base station as received at the specified mobile station.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the probability is a statistical probability based on handover history of other mobile stations.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the dynamic offset threshold determination unit is situated at a control node of the code division multiple access communication system.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein control node receives from the specified mobile station a measurement report of the signal strength of the destination base station as received at the specified mobile station.